

Amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-79 have been cancelled. Please add new claims 80-86 as shown in the claim listing below. All pending and withdrawn claims are listed below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-79 (canceled)

80. (new) A self-service dispenser for dispensing multiple portable gaming devices comprising:

at least one self-service dispenser configured to accept consideration and dispense at least one remote gaming device upon acceptance of said consideration;

said at least one dispenser being controlled by a central game controller;

both said game controller and said at least one gaming device configured to communicate with each other via two distinct bi-directional communication channels;

the first of said two communication channels being secure and operating while said gaming device is located in, or in a close proximity to said dispenser;

the second of said two communication channels being a remote communication channel and operating at least following said dispensing of said gaming device from said dispenser;

said game controller configured to generate at least one random data encryption key utilizing a random number generating means responsive to each gaming device being dispensed;

said game controller configured to transmit said at least one data encryption key to said at least one gaming device via said first communication channel automatically and without involvement of personnel of a gaming establishment operating said dispenser;

said game controller and said at least one gaming device configured to utilize said at least one data encryption key to encrypt data communicated between said game controller and said at least one gaming device via said second communication channel, said data including at least one wagering request transmitted by said at least one gaming device to said game controller via said second communication channel, said data further including a

random game outcome response to said wagering request transmitted by said game controller back to said at least one gaming device via said second communication channel; and

wherein said game controller utilizes a random number generating means separately and independently to generate each game outcome response to each said wagering request.

81. (new) The system of claim 80 wherein said dispenser includes at least one device selected from the following group of devices: (a) bill validator operable to accept monetary consideration for dispensing said at least one gaming device, (b) card reader operable to read a player club card, (c) bank card reader operable to transfer credits and/or debits from and/or to a player's account, (d) currency dispenser operable to pay a player an account balance, (e) printer operable to print a sales receipt and (f) barcode reader operable to read a barcode on a sales receipt.

82. (new) The system of claim 80 wherein said game controller is configured to perform at least one of the following actions:

(a) maintain a current account balance for said at least one gaming device, said current account balance being linked with an identification of a user operating said gaming device;

(b) monitor inventory of said gaming devices currently located inside and outside of said dispenser, and

(c) credit a user's account upon a return of said gaming device to said dispenser.

83. (new) The system of claim 80 further including a portable communication device configured to be operated by an employee of a gaming-establishment, said portable communication device securely communicating gaming-relevant data with both said game controller and said at least one gaming device wherein said gaming-relevant data includes said at least one data encryption key.

84. (new) The system of claim 80 wherein said first bidirectional communication channel is either an infrared interface or a wired interface.

85. (new) The system of claim 80 wherein said game controller controls said at least one dispenser over a local area network.

86. (new) The system of claim 80 wherein said dispenser includes a latch operable to secure said at least one gaming device in said dispenser, said latch configured to be released responsive to a signal generated by said game controller.